

***Delta Protection Commission
Land Use and Resource Management Plan Update 2008***

***Project Launch Part 2: July 21, 2008
City of Antioch Maintenance Service Center, Antioch, California***

M E E T I N G N O T E S

Note: These notes summarize the conversations of the 7/21/08 Delta Protection Commission Land Use and Resource Management Plan Update Project Launch Part 2. To give input on the Delta Protection Commission Land Use and Resource Management Plan Update, please visit 'Online Opportunity for DPC Management Plan Input' at: <http://www.delta.ca.gov/plan/management.asp>

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WELCOME and GREETINGS

Lisa Beutler, Meeting Facilitator for the Center for Collaborative Policy (CCP), CSUS, gave an introduction. She reviewed the evening's agenda and the meeting's ground rules.

Arne Simonsen, Chair of the Delta Protection Commission (DPC), explained the purpose and objective of the meeting. He stated that there were no conclusions being drawn tonight, and no bad ideas. Participants should feel free to add additional categories that should be considered. Comments can also be emailed to the DPC after the meeting. He reiterated what Former State Senator Patrick Johnston had said at Project Launch Part One on 7/16/08 about the history of the origin of the Delta Protection Act.

Linda Fiack, Executive Director of the DPC, gave a recap of the resource management plan so that participants would have a solid understanding for tonight's discussions. She explained the graphic diversity of the Delta and explained that the management plan is necessary to address a wide variety of Delta issues beyond just habitat, agriculture and recreation. Local governments are obligated to be consistent with the management plan for areas located within the primary zone of the Delta. She also explained there would be topic focused workshops in the near future to go into more depth about specific topics (e.g., agriculture, water, recreation).

SCOPING SESSION

1. Water

The Water Element's goals include:

Protect long-term water quality in the Delta for agricultural, municipal, industrial, water-contact recreation, and fish and wildlife habitat uses, as well as other designated beneficial uses.

Participants were asked to review these goals and associated policies, listed in the workbook, then as a group answering the following question:

The Water Policies should provide directions that result in achieving the Plan Goals. As part of the 2008 update, what if anything would you add, subtract or change in the Water Goals and/or Policies?

During group reports, comments included the following, in no particular order:

- P-1 should be changed from 'ensure...' to "'require' that salinity in Delta waters..." This should include contract rights that need to be enforced.
- P-2 should include the identification of best management policies and practices. Need to keep in mind that land use practices can impact tourism, agriculture and create public concern.
 - Recommendations on the issue of mosquito management need to be beefed up so we know how to get this done.
 - Language needs to be added about better coordination and communication between counties, districts and agencies on this issue.
 - This needs to be provided both for seasonal and permanent wetlands.
 - Land/water/vector control management should be integrated.

- If we are going to bring more water on land we must have a way to deal with vector control. When government buys land and wants to flood it, there must be a fund locked in to pay for vector control.
- P-3 – Water quality should be broader than salinity.
 - TMDL issues also need to be looked at.
 - Cooperation is necessary amongst agencies beyond just water (e.g. habitat, CALTRANS, etc.). However, how would we enforce this?
- To help with coordination of various Delta wide processes and ensure local representation, we need to have a policy regarding DPC participation in other Delta wide processes.
- Existing Delta water rights, laws, etc. must be strictly enforced by the state.

2. Agriculture

The Agriculture Element's goals include:

To support long-term viability of commercial agriculture and to discourage inappropriate development of agricultural lands.

Participants were asked to review these goals and associated policies, listed in the workbook, then as a group answering the following question:

The Agriculture Policies should provide directions that result in achieving the Plan Goals. As part of the 2008 update, what if anything would you add, subtract or change in the Agriculture Goals or Policies?

During group reports, comments included the following, in no particular order:

- Need ability to develop/retain agricultural process industries (like wine processing).
- Policy should be developed in regards to the necessity for a critical mass of agriculture which supports infrastructure and related industry.
- P-2 – ‘...ample supplies of water,’ should be changed to ‘...reliable supplies of quality water,’.
- Findings need to be gone through and completely updated.
- The Act needs to be referenced along with the area of origin.

- The last sentence of P-5 should be a finding, not a policy.
- Concern that everything is focused on local government. What about state government, fed government? Local is no longer the driver.
- There are problems with multiple jurisdictions, and the primary zone of the Delta should become its own county.
- P-10 – TDRs are ok, but not exclusive. Need to allow family compound.
- Need to be housing in the Delta for a lot of reasons.
 - For farmworkers and families.
 - For protection and safety issues as there is better protection and increased personal safety where people are physically present.
 - Banks need to be educated about the value of housing rights in the Delta. DPC could educate financial institutions about these rights.
 - Need to be careful not to remove existing housing rights as those could create a financial relationship that enhances farming.
- P-4 – add ‘strive to maintain a diverse, highly productive agricultural economy.
- Add policies about agritourism.
- Need to address issues surrounding private land conversion to public and the negative impacts on adjoining lands. Need to reduce incompatibilities between neighboring lands.
- P-6 (5) needs tightening up.
 - Conversion of agriculture to marsh will require different buffers.
 - Buffers should be required of those who change the land use, not the affected properties.
 - Broaden it/expand it to address state and federal programs which address wildlife friendly agriculture.
 - Require coordination amongst different agencies involved in this issue.
- Need to work with appropriate parties for wildlife friendly farming.

- As DPC may not have authority to enforce conservation easements, we need to create model ordinance(s) for entities who want to use agricultural mitigation tools. Kind of like BMP models.

3. Environment

The Environment Element's goals include:

Preserve and protect the natural resources of the Delta, including soils. Promote protection of remnants of riparian habitat. Promote seasonal flooding and agriculture practices on agricultural lands to maximize wildlife use of the hundreds of thousands of acres of lands in the Delta. Promote levee maintenance and rehabilitation to preserve the land areas and channel configurations in the Delta.

Participants were asked to review these goals and associated policies, listed in the workbook, then as a group answering the following question:

The Environment Policies should provide directions that result in achieving the Plan Goals. As part of the 2008 update, what if anything would you add, subtract or change in the Environment Goals or Policies?

During group reports, comments included the following, in no particular order:

- Findings are completely out of date. Whole section needs to be updated.
- F-1 – by reading it you would assume that the entire Delta is a wetland, but it is not. There is a lot of upland property as well.
- The definition of the Delta is partially affiliated with water movement patterns, which is not necessarily accurate at this time.
- P-2 – strike the second sentence.
- P-3 – Add words “publically owned and/or publically financed.”
- Add sunset clauses on habitat plans.
- Update DPC management plan every ten years.
- Lands used for wildlife habitat still need to contribute to ongoing financial support of services (e.g., levee, vector, fire, etc.).
- Add policy on invasive species. Needs to be cross referenced.

- Need discussion of subsidence.
- Ecotourism policies are necessary.
- The role of DPC needs to be addressed as that could help demonstrated the need for interpretation of efforts Delta-wide.
- Need policy to promote channel islands as they have many benefits, including levee protection.
- Need a green levee policy.

4. Recreation & Access

The Recreation & Access Element's goals include:

To promote continued recreational use of the land and waters of the Delta. To ensure that needed facilities that allow such uses are constructed, maintained, and supervised. To protect landowners from unauthorized recreational uses on private lands. To maximize dwindling public funds for recreation by promoting public-private partnerships and multiple use of Delta lands.

Participants were asked to review these goals and associated policies, listed in the workbook, then as a group answering the following question:

The Recreation and Access Policies should provide directions that result in achieving the overall Plan Goals. As part of the 2008 update, what if anything would you add, subtract or change in the Recreation and Access Goals or Policies?

During group reports, comments included the following, in no particular order:

- P-1 – should be based on what recreational need it. Facilities should be cited and maintained based on needs as maintenance is not always the first step.
- P-1 – Can't tell local governments what to do. Need to mention that priority of local financing is out of the purview of DPC.
- Need to re-examine and reword almost the entire section as it doesn't really seem to apply to the Act in regards to protection and preserving the Delta. DPC can support these things (e.g. improvement of public safety), but can't tell local governments what to do. Need affirming statements of what intentions are.
- P-8 – Add words 'Publicly funded'

- Need stronger policy statement for the removal of abandoned vessels such as “DPC will work with state, federal and local agencies to remove vessels.”
 - Other agencies may listen to DPC.
 - Need coordination and communication in this issue.
 - Someone needs to be in charge of this in order to keep waterways clear.
- P-7 - need to add where appropriate in consideration of levees protection and maintenance.
- Need to incorporate consideration of appropriate levee access, should not just be anywhere as illicit activities are more likely to occur in some places.
- Money for acquisition does not equal money for maintenance, but needs to. This is a common theme throughout this section.
- Delta wide branding is necessary.
- P-1 and P-9 conflict with one another. Need to be careful of policies that restrict.
- P-8 – should it address costs that marinas are able to charge. This is troubling.
- Need to examine what has happened locally since 1995 that affects these policies.
- There are very few places to fish from shore, though F-16 indicates that there are.
 - The Delta Trail and secondary levees could help with establishing fishing areas in places where there are fish to catch. Therefore it is necessary to integrate trails, secondary levees and fishing locations.
- Public access opportunities need to be identified as there are many levees that are privately owned and used by the public for fishing which leads to property damage.
- For public access to primary zone, local governments include in their plans primary access to the secondary zone. So developers need to provide access in projects that are in the secondary zone.
- Need to include a Delta Trail policy.

5. New Plan Elements

Since preparation of the original Management plan 13 years ago in 1995, a number of significant events have occurred. Issues such as climate change, flood risk and invasive species have created new pressures. In addition, new information about the state of the Delta, Delta Vision (a major initiative of the Governor) and several other initiatives have prompted new interest in updating the Delta Management Plan. Policy makers are also revisiting the overall structure of Delta governance.

For this section, the two groups were asked to answer the following question:

The Management Plan Elements should provide directions that result in achieving the overall Plan Goals. As part of the 2008 update, what if anything would you add, subtract or change in the Goals or Elements?

- Need to recognize tradeoffs (i.e., mercury reduction, impact on wetlands, dredging...)
- Need five county fund for abandoned vessels.
- Delta Trail policy.
- Carbon credits and climate change
- Agritourism and ecotourism
- Invasive species
- Performance measures as concept, because we have recommendations for carrying out policies.
- Have recreation access points in the Delta that could be the Delta Park, and have the users start to pay for some of those fishing access points and sanitation, trash and collection facilities.
- DPC needs to be 'Cheerleader for Delta.' Needs to actively and aggressively support in-Delta interests for protection and preservation. Preferential over statewide interests.
- DPC needs to interact with agencies that are impacting management plan areas in order to do this promotion so that public knows what is going on.

NEXT STEPS and THANK YOU

Following the group reports and collective discussion, Linda Fiack and Lisa Beutler thanked participants for their time and contributions. Linda mentioned that future opportunities to give input on the plan would include small topical workshops on

individual plan elements in the late summer/fall, and a public review draft of a revised Plan later in the fall. Also online feedback can be given via the DPC website.

ATTENDANCE

Individuals

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Karen Cunningham
Smith Cunningham
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Mike Hardesty
Michael Kent
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